



THE SCOOP

December 2025

SAVE THE DATE:

December 18 * Holiday Open House
December 23-26 * Extension Office Closed, Christmas
January 1 * Project Drop/Add Deadline
January 1-2 * Extension Office Closed, New Year's
January 3 * BB Gun Practice Starts
January 7 * 4-H Council Meeting/Officer Elections
January 11* Market Beef Weigh/Tag Day

January 1
is the last day to
Add or Drop
a 4-H project.



Thank You:

*A BIG thank you to Jeff Krook and Dena Wilson, 4-H leaders who have retired from longtime club organizational duties. Both leaders logged many hours volunteering in the Rock Creek Ranchers, Rockvale Ramblers and Carbon County 4-H Archery clubs. Volunteers are integral to the success of our county 4-H clubs and the countywide 4-H program.

4-H Camp Counselor/CIT Interviews

Interviews for the 4-H teens who have applied to be camp counselors/CIT's will have scheduled interviews January 11-12. Letters with individual interview times will be mailed/emailed to candidates. Please call the Extension Office if you have questions.

Teen Leader Group

Our county 4-H teen leaders are an active, fun group! If you are 12 and older and would like to become a member of this group led by Extension Agent Amber Elliott, please contact her at the Extension Office. This is a great way to make friends, and develop your leadership and communication skills! Deadline to join the group is **December 31**.

Livestock Judging

Interested in judging livestock for Carbon County 4-H? Join Amber at practice! You can get the practice schedule by contacting Amber: amber.elliott1@montana.edu or 406-962-3522

Join us at the Extension Office Holiday Open House * Thursday, December 18 * 11 am – 2 pm

Carbon County 4-H

Carbon County Extension Office – PO Box 230 - 202 State Street – Joliet, MT 59041 – 406.962.3522

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4-H Council Officer Election

The next 4-H Council meeting is **Wednesday, January 7 at 7 pm** in the Extension Office meeting room, Joliet. One adult/teen leader from each club should plan to attend Council meetings to ensure there is a voting quorum. Officer elections this year include President, Vice President and Secretary positions. 4-H volunteers, please consider serving. The 4-H Council is integral to the success of Carbon County 4-H.

2026 Greytak Calendars



2026 Don Greytak calendars are available at the Extension Office! Our county 4-H program receives \$5 for every calendar sold through the Extension Office. Greytak calendars are a great \$15 Christmas gift!

BB Gun Practice

BB Gun practice starts on **Saturday, January 3 at 9 am** in the Beartooth RC&D building, 128 S. Main Street in Joliet. Only 4-H members who are enrolled in the BB Gun project may participate in practice. Parents are required to attend in order to complete shooting waivers.

Market Beef Weigh & Tag Day

Weigh/tag day for 4-H and FFA market beef exhibitors is **Sunday, January 11 from 10 am – NOON** at Oswald's feedlot, Rockvale. You must bring a bill of sale for your steer! A brand inspector will be on site to help with paperwork. Steers do not need to be halter broke; bring your halter to put on your steer while it is in the chute! Family members may help market beef exhibitors with weigh-in.

Annual 4-H Calendar

The annual county 4-H calendar is attached to this newsletter email. Please note that the calendar is subject to change. Do you have any countywide 4-H events to add? Please let Sheri know at the Extension Office: carbon@montana.edu.

Remember that newsletters, forms, calendar, etc. are available on ZSuite under Newsletters.

Mark Your Calendars

Montana 4-H Rec Lab (Columbus)
March 27-29

Animal Quality Assurance Trainings
March 11 – Extension Office, Joliet
April 12 – Fairgrounds, Red Lodge

Tri-County 4-H Camp (Nye)
June 9-12

Horse Camp (Red Lodge)
June 15-18

Carbon County Fair (Red Lodge)
July 20-25

Need project books? Order them from your club organizational leader!

Air Rifle, Archery and Dog Club practices have already begun. Contact the Extension Office if you need more info.

Rockvale Ramblers Pet Vaccination Clinic
Sunday, January 18 from 12:30-2:30 pm at the Joliet Fire Hall, 129 N. Main St

Bring your cats and dogs to receive low-cost vaccinations provided by Stacey Wetherelt, DVM.



December 8, 2025

TO: Extension County Agents/Support Staff
FFA School Advisors
2025 MontanaFair Junior Livestock Exhibitors (outside of Yellowstone County)

FROM: Roni Baker *Roni Baker*
Yellowstone County 4-H Extension Agent

RE: 2026 MontanaFair Junior Livestock Show

**Yellowstone County
Extension Office**

2320 3rd Ave N
Billings, MT 59101

Tel (406) 256-2828
Fax (406) 256-2825

msuextension.org/yellowstone

This letter is being sent to inform you of the dates to tag animals for the 2026 MontanaFair in Billings. The 2026 MontanaFair will be held August 7 - 15.

All exhibitors who are not Yellowstone County 4-H or FFA members are required to pay a \$50 fee per animal tagged for the MontanaFair. Fee is subject to change in the future. Fees will be due at tagging. Tagging fees are not refundable. Tagging fees are not MontanaFair entry fees. These funds will be used to support the MontanaFair Junior Livestock program. Due to the size/number of exhibitors and length of the fair this fee increase has been implemented. Yellowstone County 4-H members do two separate fundraisers during the year to help support the fair. Out of County Exhibitors will also pay an increased selling fee/% which is determined after the sale based on overall costs.

MontanaFair is our Yellowstone County Fair. Exhibitors and their families who are not Yellowstone County residents have the privilege of attending the MontanaFair. It is not a right. We appreciate the level of knowledge and competition Out of County Exhibitors bring and many have been helpful in sponsoring prizes, volunteering, etc.

All (non-Yellowstone County) sheep, beef, goat and swine market animal exhibitors can sell in the Junior Livestock Sale ONLY if they are in the top 5 in their class.

All individuals are required to bring their animals to PAYS (Public Auction Yards) in Billings on a specific date at a specific time. Those dates are listed below.

Beef Tagging – Sunday, January 4 in Billings, MT

12 PM to 3 PM at Public Auction Yards (PAYS)
1:00 - 2:30 pm - Animal Quality Assurance Class
3:00 - 4:00 pm - Horse Helmet Workshop

Swine/ Sheep/Goat Tagging – Saturday, May 2 in Billings, MT

8:00 - 11:00 am at Public Auction Yards (PAYS)
9:00 - 10:30 am - Animal Quality Assurance Class
11:00 am - 12:00 pm - Horse Helmet Workshop

*The Montana State University
Extension Service is an
ADA/EQ/AA/Veteran's
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Provider of Educational
Outreach.*

Mountains & Minds

Each exhibitor can tag three animals in each species. Exhibitors can enter all 3 on their entry, but at MontanaFair check-in they must decide which 2 animals they will be weighing and exhibiting. Each exhibitor at the MontanaFair can only sell one animal. Animals must be tagged specifically for the MontanaFair. A market animal tagged for the MontanaFair cannot be shown or sold at another 4-H or FFA Junior Livestock Show/County Fair. This rule does not pertain to open shows (should they be available).

If the weather causes a problem for you to get to Billings on the beef tagging date, please contact Roni Baker at the Extension Office (256-2828 or 698-6838), Bill Cook (406-670-0689) or Jon Springer (406-465-5912). NO alternate date will be offered for beef, sheep, swine, and goat tagging.

A scale will be available to weigh your animal(s) at tagging time. Steers do not need to be halter broke to be weighed.

All exhibitors at the MontanaFair in Department A (livestock) are required to attend a MSU Extension Animal Quality Assurance Training prior to the fair entry deadline to be eligible to exhibit at the MontanaFair. Exhibitors must attend a session their first year as a beginner/junior and as a senior or the first year they exhibit. They must attend the 1½ hour training with a parent or legal guardian. A training session will be held on tagging day for those who can attend. You can also attend any of the other trainings that will be offered. Contact the Extension Office for detailed information. Several counties around the state are also offering this training. Members can attend a local training session with approval from the Extension Agent. MontanaFair exhibitors must attend the training prior to the fair entry deadline of June 26, 2026.

The Exhibitors Handbook will be online by the end of May. MontanaFair manages registration online at montanafair.com. MontanaFair's entry deadline for the 2026 MontanaFair is June 26, 2026, by 11:59 pm – no exceptions. Entries received after 11:59 pm on June 26, 2026, and before 11:59 pm on July 3, 2026, will incur a \$50 per exhibitor late fee. No late entries will be accepted without payment. Entries submitted after 5:00 pm on July 3, 2026, **will not** be accepted by MontanaFair. Tagging an animal for the MontanaFair does not enter it in the fair. You must also go online at montanafair.com and complete the entries.

All MontanaFair exhibitors and their families are required to follow the rules and expectations for the MontanaFair. This includes barn lock up times, parking guidelines and general politeness/sportsmanship. Violation of any rule or regulation may result in forfeiture of all premiums and awards, disqualification, expulsion or probation of the exhibitor (or organized groups the exhibitor represents) and the exhibit or livestock involved in the violation. Probation, disqualification, expulsion or other disciplinary action will be final.

Thank you. Please reach out with questions.